MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 MAY 1981

Lebanese Crisis

Habib Mission--Jerusalem radio reported after U.S. special envoy Philip Habib's meeting with Prime Minister Menahem Begin on 27 May that Habib will return to Washington. Commenting on the Habib's mission, Begin said that the diplomatic efforts will continue even though they have not borne any fruit so far, the radio added. Earlier Jerusalem radio reported a denial by an "official U.S. source" that Fatah official Salah Khalaf had participated in a meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Habib. The Jerusalem POST, citing the Lebanese weekly MONDAY MORNING. had earlier reported the meeting. The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio described Habib's first round of talks as a failure, given his insistence on carrying Israeli demands with him. It voiced the opinion that Habib is not waiting for a message from Riyadh but rather a decision from Washington. The radio predicted that Washington will either limit Habib's mission, which will freeze Israeli military action until the right moment, or terminate it, which will mark the beginning of an Israeli military operation.

Butrus Press Conference--Speaking at a press conference broadcast by Beirut radio, Lebanese Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus said he is optimistic that the resolutions of the recent Arab League conference in Tunis can be implemented. Referring to Lebanon's relations with France, where he had stopped over briefly before returning to Beirut from Tunis, Butrus said he will deliver a personal message to Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis from the new French president, Francois Mitterrand.

PLO Diplomacy--The Voice of Palestine reported that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat returned to Beirut after visiting Libya and Romania. In Bucharest he discussed the situation in Lebanon with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu. The radio also reported that PLO Political Department Director Abu Ja'far met in Beirut with Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov and that the PLO representative in Bulgaria attended a meeting in Sofia of Steadfastness and Confrontation Front ambassadors.

Military Situation--The Voice of Palestine and the Voice of Lebanon reported intermittent exchanges of gunfire in Beirut. According to the former, Israeli artillery shelled An-Nabatiyah and other Palestinian positions in the south. The latter reported Syrian sniper fire in Zahlah. It said that Libyan units took up positions in Beirut and that SAM-9 missiles have been installed in the coastal area south of the capital near Ad-Damur. The Voice of Lebanon also reported that helicopters escorted Syrian reinforcements into positions in the Al-Biqa' valley and surrounding hills this morning.

Jordan

King Husayn arrived in Moscow on a 3-day official visit, and President Leonid Brezhnev and other top Soviet officials met him at the airport, Jordanian and Soviet media reported. Amman radio later broadcast the announcer-read text of Husayn's speech at a banquet hosted by Brezhnev in which the Jordanian monarch welcomed the Soviet leader's call for an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of the PLO. The Palestinian issue, Husayn said, is the touchstone on which the Arabs guage the stands of states and people toward them. Husayn also emphasized Jordan's eagerness to play a role in the Nonaligned Movement and its support for Iraq in the war with Iran. He denounced Israel's aggression in Lebanon and, without mentioning the Syrians, called for an internal Lebanese dialogue involving the Palestinians that will guarantee the return of peace to that country. Referring to the security of the Arab nation as a whole, Husayn expressed support for the right of the Gulf states to defend themselves through their own collective security system and without foreign intervention or hegemony.

Syria

Damascus radio reported that a Syrian delegation headed by Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Dr Muhammad al-Atrash began talks in Moscow on a new 5-year economic agreement with the Soviet Union. Citing a Syrian oil official, the radio also said the talks will refer to Syrian-Soviet cooperation in drilling for oil in Syria.

OPEC Conference

Press Release--An OPEC press release issued at the close of the 25-26 May OPEC conference in Geneva, transmitted by OPECNA, reported that the conference decided to maintain the marker crude oil price at a ceiling of $36 per barrel and the maximum OPEC crude oil price at $41 per barrel until the end of the year. According to the release, the majority of the member countries decided to cut production by a minimum of 10 percent as of 1 June.

Saudi Stance--SPA, quoting the Saudi under secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Affairs and member of the kingdom's OPEC delegation, said Saudi Arabia does not accept the fixing of its production within the OPEC framework but will base its oil output on market conditions. According to SPA, the under secretary confirmed that the price of Saudi oil will remain at $32 per barrel until the kingdom decides on new prices.

Gulf Summit

The Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council issued a final statement at the close of its first meeting on 26 May in Abu Dhabi. The statement, carried by Abu Dhabi radio, announced the establishment of the Cooperation Council of the Arab Gulf states, the appointment of former Kuwaiti envoy to the United Nations 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah as secretary general of the council and the selection of Riyadh as the permanent headquarters. According to the statement, the council decided to meet again in Riyadh in November.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Tehran radio reported that an Iraqi MiG was shot down on 25 May 40 km west of Sanandaj. An armed forces communique, carried by the radio, reported minor clashes in the southern and western regions. An Iraqi Armed Forces General Command communique, transmitted by INA, claimed that a successful Iraqi operation had been carried out in the Dezful region and detailed minor Iranian losses in the Nowsud, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Shush regions.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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HEYWAD EDITORIAL URGES IRAN, PAKISTAN TO NEGOTIATE

LD270600 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0420 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] Kabul, 26 May (BAKHTAR)--"The Problem Around Afghanistan Should Be Solved Through Negotiations" is the headline of an editorial by the daily HEYWAD today.

The author recalls the DRA proposals of last year's May 14 in which the Government of Afghanistan proposed to the governments of Pakistan and Iran to hold talks about all the problems. So, writes the paper, there are no positive responses from Pakistan and Iran.

The paper says: The practical and very important proposals made recently by Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU CC, president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, in Tbilisi are the signs of the permanent interest shown by the Soviet Union in the strengthening of the international peace and security and the elimination of tension.

The paper continues: The existence of the international tension is linked with the activities of Washington and its allies. In spite of all the good intentions shown by the DRA, the imperialist and the reactionary states do not respond to the proposals of Afghanistan because the U.S. itself is interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and trying to keep Iran under strong pressure and deploy more military forces in the region.

We also see that Pakistan delays the talks at the instigation of imperialism and chauvinism. But we must agree that no one has the right to solve the problems between the two neighboring countries except themselves.

The Government of Pakistan is aware of the good will of Afghanistan and [words indistinct] is ready for talks as it was before, concludes the paper.

ZIRAY DELIVERS SPEECH AT 20 MAY ASSEMBLY SESSION

LD261224 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 24 May 81

[Speech by Dr Saleh Mohammad Ziray, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and member of the Revolution Council Presidium, at a 20 May Grand Assembly session in Kabul of tribal elders and social figures--read by announcer]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate and merciful. Esteemed elders of the tribes, nationalities and social figures of our beloved homeland Afghanistan.

First of all, I welcome you dear elders on behalf of the PDPA Central Committee, the DRA Revolution Council and Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the Revolution Council and president of the DRA.

I hope your arrival for the formation of this direct and national assembly is an important step by the command of almighty God and your efforts for the well-being and prosperity of all Muslim inhabitants and masses [words indistinct] of Afghanistan.

Dear friends, we are the inhabitants of a shared home, which we inherited from our ancestors. This home--the beloved and heroic Afghanistan--has a proud history and has praiseworthy traditions.

Our revolutionary party and revolutionary government have pledged to build this home, a task that will be carried out by the unity and harmony of the broad masses of this land.

We regard the creation of the National Fatherland Front [NFF]--the manifestation of all nationalities, tribes, working ethnic groups, clergy and patriotic and progressive forces--as an important factor in fulfilling this task. We have (?sufficiently prepared) for the NFF's formation.

Our homeland has a proud history that witnessed the heroism of our fathers and ancestors against foreign aggression. Our history is the history of heroism of our fathers against [word indistinct] British colonization. After these struggles this homeland was left to us.

Unity and harmony of our fraternal tribes, nationalities and ethnic groups are the result of these struggles; thus, with [word indistinct], we should extend the unity of tribes and nationalities for safeguarding honor and pride in our homeland. Most of the events in our homeland show that whenever aggressive and supremacy-seeking forces encroached on our land, our courageous people and elders formed gatherings in villages and towns and easily solved the difficulties.

Our elders formed assemblies in difficult circumstances. Whenever they rendered a decision on difficult issues outside their courts, their decisions became a firm guideline forever. In honoring these decisions, they sacrificed their lives.

Today, the British, who trampled underfoot our independence, again support those anti-freedom and antiprogressive people in our country. Presently, the same aggressive British, U.S. imperialism and the heretical Chinese leadership have encroached on our country, but it was the USSR that, because of the traditional friendship, once again, after being asked by the legal government of Afghanistan, extended support to us in hard times to safeguard our national independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and to repulse and rebuff this naked aggression. After regaining our independence, we found very reliable friends to safeguard our soil and our honor.

Our friendship with our northern neighbor, the great USSR, has nourished in these hard moments. Therefore, we and our friend the USSR support each other in the fight against the British. During the hard situation when the October Revolution succeeded in Russia, the young Soviet Government and party declared their support for the territorial integrity and freedom of Iran, Turkey and other (?peoples) and Muslim nationalities in the East. The Soviet Union at that time was the first country that officially recognized our independence under the leadership of Ghazi Amanollah Khan. At that time, we were under the propaganda conspiratorial attacks of British colonialism, which, through its agents, prevented the socioeconomic progress of our country. Again it was the economic, social, cultural and defensive aid by the Soviet Union that enabled us to gain and safeguard our independence. At that time, and after being requested by representatives of the Afghan people, the legal government of Ghazi Amanollah Khan signed a friendship agreement with the Soviet Government in which it was clearly stated that if either of the countries was attacked and encroached on by a foreign country, the other would support it. This contract, which was recorded in our proud history with golden letters, is the best indication of the friendship between both countries.

The leaders of jirgas [tribal assemblies] and grand assemblies representing tribes, nationalities and clans of Afghanistan have endorsed friendship with the USSR and have expressed their gratitude at the all-round economic, social, cultural and defensive aid of the Soviet Union.

You elders are witnesses that some time ago the Western capitalists of imperialist states and Pakistan stopped their aid to us and closed trade routes. In 1955, the Grand Assembly adopted and affirmed unanimously that Afghanistan must get a large amount of economic, social, cultural and defensive aid from the USSR. As a result of this decision, Afghanistan began and completed its first 5-year plan with the aid of the USSR. Most of our economic and defensive experts were trained in the USSR and other socialist countries. Soviet military instructors came to our country and our defensive military equipment was (?supplied) by the USSR.

It was as a result of this aid and the work of the Afghan workers that many development projects were begun and completed in Afghanistan. The very small progress that we witness today in Afghanistan is the result of the friendly and selfless aid of the USSR.

The aim of our national-democratic revolution is to liberate the people of Afghanistan from the yoke of imperialism and feudalism and coordinate nationalities, tribes and various clans, democratic forces and broad masses under the leadership of the party in accordance with the tenets of the sacred religion of Islam, and with the people's traditions and customs. Considering the conditions, such steps must be taken stage by stage to free the homeland from every kind of oppression, colonialism, poverty, illiteracy and backwardness.

But it is obvious that our internal and external enemies do not want a free, proud and prosperous Afghanistan. Therefore, after the victory of the Sawr Revolution, conspiracies and propaganda immediately began. On the one hand, U.S. imperialism, Chinese heretics and their Egyptian, Israeli and Pakistani agents began their activities from outside and provoked their agents inside Afghanistan, a number of whom were left behind from the British era, and on the other, Hafizollah Amin, the agent of U.S. imperialism who was put into the party a long time ago, instigated by his masters, very craftily began to damage the national-democratic revolution from the point of view of human resources and principles. Thus, our internal and external enemies joined hands--the foreign enemies by way of our neighboring countries, in particular Pakistan, which unleashed an undeclared war against us, Amin and his homeland-enemy band by warming up such brutality, savagery, discord and killings inside the country to defame the pure aspirations of the revolution in the eyes of the people. Thus, water was allowed to go to the enemy mill. It was almost possible for our enemies to succeed in their foul aims and bring about such disorders that tried to break our fathers' country into pieces and divide it among themselves. But, due to our people's request, the majority of the country's healthy elements and patriotic armed forces overthrew the throne of the Amin brutalities and the revolution was once again led on a principled, basic and human path. Thus the new developmental stage of the Sawr Revolution began.

Respected elders and prominent public figures, our enemies and our [word indistinct] make propoganda so that our people remain in the dark and in misfortune forever and create questions in the minds of some our deceived compatriots concerning the USSR's limited military contingents. But our work is clear, not hidden. An undeclared war was unleashed against the Afghan people by our old enemies, and our freedom, national independence and territorial integrity was faced with danger. Therefore, we had to safeguard the homeland, which is why we asked for help from our past friendly neighboring country, which helped us 60 years ago against the same British colonialist enemy.

Dear elders and prominent public figures, similar to our fathers and grandfathers, who struggled for national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and were sacrificing themselves; similar to the history of our forefathers, who fought against the same enemy or predecessors of the present enemies and courageously guarded our dear homeland; similar to what we have seen throughout our history, whenever the question of safeguarding the homeland was at stake, our elders, fathers and forefathers and the working Afghans came together in one bastion, organized themselves and stood against the enemy. Today, too, the Afghan workers ought to unite against the enemies of the dear homeland--Afghanistan--to defend national independence and eliminate the notorious enemy forever.

Esteemed elders, approximately 1 year ago at the celebration of the anniversary of the Sawr Revolution, the DRA ratified a very valuable document for the welfare of our persecuted compatriots and the prosperity of the country. This document was the Basic Principles of the DRA in which respect was accorded very clearly to the values, laudable customs, traditions and decisions of all the country's nationalities, tribes and clans.

The DRA Government, which is the servant of all persecuted workers, sees its sole (?fulcrum) among the people. That is why the broad NFF, which is the foundation of political sovereignity and is a good factor for implementing true democracy, is being (?constituted). The DRA Basic Principles state: The power of workers in the DRA is based on the broad NFF, which includes all workers, peasants, nomads, artisans, intellectuals, women, youths, representatives of all nationalities and tribes, all patriotic, progressive and democratic forces, sociopolitical organizations under the leadership of the PDPA in accordance with the general plan of building a new, free and democratic society.

The NFF is dutybound to assist in uniting all human forces toward joint activity, in exercising the general development of democratic duties in the country, in training people with a patriotic spirit and in broadly attracting of persons in government administration and society.

You, respected elders and prominent public figures, have a great responsibility before the people and the homeland to take part in informing people who have been deceived by imperialism and their agents. It is a fact that your participation and work in creating the NFF is outstanding because this organization is being created in accordance with the historical customs of our people. This is a lofty organization of all workers, tribes, clans, nationalities and all patriotic forces. The DRA highly values the traditional jirgas of the Afghan people in resolving social differences and takes an active part in developing and safeguarding this tradition.

You, elders, heroes, prominent public figures and all national and patriotic forces, are able to raise the level of the people's understanding in working to defend national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of your homeland just as your fathers and grandfathers did. Attract them to fight against the very crafty and treacherous enemy. It is the pure and heroic struggle that maintains the foundation of the future welfare of our couragesous and oppressed people.

Your participation in this jirga once again indicates that the heroic people of Afghanistan and their representatives and elders take an active part in sociopolitical life. The jirga and our discussions have the capacity of firm steps toward the [words indistinct].

Esteemed friends, our proud homeland is passing through very hard, important and critical times that are the test of our people. Our fathers and grandfathers came out well in similar times. It is now up to us to answer with complete manhood, unity and courage to this important (?question) of history and the question of safeguarding national sovereignty and independence.

Long live the indestructable unity between the brother nationalities, tribes and clans of Afghanistan!

Firm and consolidated be the invincible bastion of our workers in consolidating national freedom against imperialism, chauvinism and reaction!

CONSULAR AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH USSR 24 MAY

LD241502 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1430 GMT 24 May 81

[Text] The Information and Publicity Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that a consular agreement between the USSR and the DRA was signed today by the DRA minister of foreign affairs and the Soviet ambassador in Kabul, F.A. Tabeyev, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

After the agreement was signed and the relevant documents were exchanged, the minister of foreign affairs and the USSR ambassador expressed views on the agreement, on the friendly relations between both countries, and on further cooperation.

GOVERNMENT ISSUES WHITE PAPER ON DISPUTED ISLAND

BK270636 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 26 May 81

[Text] The Bangladesh Government, in a white paper issued in Dacca today, clarified its position regarding the newly emerged South Talpatti Island. It said: When the Indian prime minister visited Bangladesh in April 1979, the Bangladesh president took up the matter with him. In the interest of good neighborly relations, Bangladesh proposed a joint survey to dispel any misgiving about the actual location and rightful ownership of the island, and thus to peacefully settle the problem between the two neighbors. The Indian prime minister agreed to the Bangladesh proposal for a joint survey. This commitment was confirmed by the Indian prime minister when the deputy prime minister of Bangladesh called on him in New Delhi in May 1979. The foreign ministers of the two countries during their meeting in Dacca in August last year agreed that after study of the additional information, further discussion will take place with a view to settling the issue at an early date. The Indian Ministry of External Affairs in its note of 13 May this year also reiterated the intention of the Indian Government to exchange further data and hold further discussions based on the understanding reached between the two foreign ministers for the peaceful solution of the problem. There was a clear contradiction between such declared intention and actual action--what amounted to a military operation on the South Talpatti Island and the adjoining areas.

The white paper said: In the interest of preserving mutual trust between the two countries, India should honor the commitment to a joint survey, which was agreed upon at the highest level between the Indian prime minister and the Bangladesh president. It said: Bangladesh firmly believes that friendly and good neighborly relations between the two countries are in the mutual interest of their people and efforts to strengthen and promote such relations should not be allowed to be jeopardized. It was for this reason that while protesting against India's unilateral and illegal claim, special care was taken by Bangladesh not to introduce extraneous issues, as India unfortunately appears to have been doing.

It said: The Bangladesh Government viewed with grave concern the attempts on the part of the Indian Government to change its position in successive notes and to misconstrue the agreement and understanding reached between the two countries for a peaceful solution.

The white paper said: Although India had sent its naval ships Sandhayak and Andaman, Bangladesh reiterated its demand for immediate withdrawal from the disputed island of the remaining armed Indian vessel INS Swaraj, personnel and materials, including the Indian flag, to restore the spirit of friendly and good neighborly relations and mutual trust between the two countries and also to initiate measures for peaceful solution of the problem at an early date.

It added that guided by the principles of the UN Charter and nonalignment, Bangladesh is determined to take all necessary steps for a just and peaceful solution in accordance with the agreement reached between the two governments. In the interest of good neighborly relations and peace and stability in the region, Bangladesh considers it imperative that India honor her commitment.

PARLIAMENT DISCUSSES RESOLUTION ON DISPUTED ISLAND

BK261635 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 May 81

[Excerpts] Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] this evening continued discussions on a resolution on the unilateral and illegal action of India in landing armed personnel on the newly emerged South Talpatty Island and sending Indian naval ships to the northeast of the island within the territorial waters of Bangladesh. The resolution was moved by leader of the house Shah Azizur Rahman.

It expressed profound shock and distress of the house at the Indian action. It also records strong protest against such action in the South Talpatty Island in clear violation of the agreements and understanding reached between the two governments and the internationally accepted law of norms and practices.

The resolution called upon the Indian Government to remove forthwith all personnel, structures and materials, including its flag and the remaining Indian naval landing craft, and to desist from the use or threat of force or provocative acts of any kind. The resolution also called upon India to honor its commitment to resolve the issue at an early date peacefully through a joint survey, exchange of data and discussions in a spirit of understanding, cooperation and good neighborliness. It urged the Indian Government to resolve all outstanding problems between the two countries through discussion and friendly cooperation in accordance with the commitments of the principles of the UN Charter and nonalignment in the larger interest of the two people and peace and stability in the region.

Eight Bangladesh Nationalist Party members today spoke on the resolution. They condemned the Indian action on the island and said it is nothing but a manifestation of India's expansionist and hegemonistic policy. The opposition and independent members who staged a walkout during the morning sitting did not return this evening. They staged a walkout over a procedural hitch regarding the timelimit for discussion on an adjournment motion on South Talpatti Island, moved earlier by Abdus Sabur Khan of the Muslim League. The motion was chalked out after the expiry of the 2-hour timelimit, as provided in the rules of procedure.

Foreign Minister Mohamed Shamsul Haq told the house that 123,093 stranded Pakistani nationals have so far been repatriated. Another 452,116 Pakistani nationals are awaiting for the return.

SHEIKH HASINA ADDRESSES GOPALGANJ RALLY 21 MAY

BK261643 Dacca BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 22 May 81 p 1, 12

[Excerpts] Gopalganj, 21 May--Sheikh Hasina Wazed, chairman of the Bangladesh Awami League, said here today that she would shed the last drop of her blood to fulfill the unfinished task of her late father Sheikh Muijibur Rahman--the implementation of second revolution and establishment of Baksal ideology.

Addressing a big public meeting at the local Eidgah Maidan, Sheikh Masina said that her father wanted to alleviate the sufferings of the millions of distressed people of the country by establishing an exploitationless society and democracy of the exploited. She said that her father was killed by the imperialists and their local agents at a time when he was going to implement his programmes. Narrating the killing of her father and members of the family, Sheikh Hasina broke into tears. She termed the killing of her father as the darkest phase of our history.

Addressing the meeting, Sheikh Hasina said that people did not kill her father as he was beloved to them. She said that the killers did not only kill him but killed the hopes and aspirations of the people. "I would not ask anyone but call the people of Bangladesh to try the killers of my father," she added.

Sheikh Hasina said that there had [been] no improvement in the economic and political situation in the country during the past six years. She alleged that the sufferings of the people had increased manifold. Unabated price hikes of daily necessities have hooked the people all around, she added. She said that she would fight for the people's cause.

BSS adds, only after 13 minutes' speech, Sheikh Hasina fainted on the rostrum and the meeting was abruptly over.

CHAVAN RESIGNS MEMBERSHIP IN CONGRESS-U PARTY

BK261348 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 26 May 81

[Text] Y.B. Chavan today resigned from the primary membership of the All-India Congress-U. He has also resigned from the leadership of the Congress parliamentary party and from the membership of the working committee and the parliamentary board of the party. Chavan conveyed his decision to party president Devraj Urs by a telegram this afternoon. Later, Chavan told newsmen in Pune that the Congress-U leadership has pushed him up and stopped the debate which he initiated. He pointed out that he had come to the conclusion that the Congress-U cannot be a national party because it has no such (?potential).

Chavan asserted that he is still a congressman and will remain a congressman.

Six members of the Maharashtra legislative assembly from Satara District and 35 members of Satara Jila Parishad, including its president and vice president, also resigned their party posts and primary membership of the Congress-U following Chavan's decision. Satara is Chavan's parliamentary constituency. Congress-U President Devraj Urs told newsmen in Bangalore today that he has accepted the resignation of Y.B. Chavan from the primary membership of the party.

BANNED MANIPUR PARTY LEADER ARRESTED 25 MAY

BK270720 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] In Manipur, one self-styled commander in chief of the outlawed Kanglepak Communist Party, (Ibohanbi), along with his four associates were apprehended on Monday last near Imphal following an encounter with the security forces. A sizable number of arms and ammunition and incriminating documents were recovered from them.

JANG REPORTS CLAMPDOWN ON KHALISTAN MOVEMENT

GF261700 Karachi JANG in Urdu 24 May 81 p 1

[By JANG staff reporter]

[Excerpts] The Indira Gandhi government is trying to weaken the Khalistan movement by large-scale transfers of government officers in Punjab. From chief secretary to deputy superintendent of police, hundreds of officers have been transferred during the past 2 weeks. Meanwhile, the Sikhs have established a united organization of Sikh students to demand recognition as a separate entity and the elevation of Amritsar to a city of international status. The Sikhs have set up a united front to pursue their demands. According to latest reports, the situation has become so serious that Mrs Gandhi has arrived in the capital city of Chandigarh to make a first hand assessment of the situation. Meanwhile, the Sikhs have refused to sell their agricultural produce to the central government as a gesture of noncooperation and have begun to hoard it instead.

The federal government has canceled its program of sending raiding parties in the various parts of Punjab to check tax evasion because residents had planned stiff resistance.

It has been reported that every night slogans are written on the walls: "Death to Hindi tyrants!" "Long live Khalistan!" "Sikhs are a separate nation!" These seem to be increasing. Police and other officials have failed to catch anyone writing the slogans.

Sikh residents of the border area of Gurdaspur have strongly protested the establishment of a military cantonment on 3,000 acres of land that was opened by the outgoing army chief, General Malhotra. This installation is very close to the Pakistani border and has entered the second phase of development. It is being built at a cost of 200 million rupees. The general announced that more such military bases would be set up along the border. Local Sikhs boycotted the ceremony.

MUGABE REITERATES PAKISTANI-ZIMBABWEAN FRIENDSHIP

BK261252 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 25 May 81

[Text] Prime Minister of Zimbabwe Robert Mugabe described the foreign interference in Afghanistan as reprehensible and said it cannot be condoned. Addressing a news conference in Karachi this evening, he said the people of Afghanistan should be given their right to live as a sovereign nation without outside interference. He said this was the stand they took and voted for at the nonaligned conference in New Delhi in February this year. He said no state, however big it might be, was entitled to interfere in the affairs of other countries and to try to be the master to rectify the situation to its own liking.

Replying to a question, he said like every other country, Pakistan was entitled to strengthen its defenses and acquire military capability for its security. He said they were doing it themselves in their own small way.

He said he had discussed the Afghanistan situation with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and said that Pakistan had been making persuasive efforts to achieve a peaceful and amicable solution of the Afghan crisis in the interest of international peace and security as quickly as possible. The international community was also anxious to see a peaceful solution to this problem to end insecurity in the region.

Mugabe said in their discussions they reviewed the international policies being pursued by the two countries. Both Pakistan and Zimbabwe, being nonaligned countries, uphold the principles of nonalignment, the need for world peace, the world powers to stop the armament race and for noninterference in each other's affairs. He recalled Pakistan's support to his party during the freedom struggle of the people of Zimbabwe and said Pakistan gave military assistance, humanitarian and material aid and political support in their struggle. Now that they had attained independence and had succeeded in their struggle, it was fit and proper that Pakistan and free Zimbabwe came still closer. It was also a purpose of his visit to thank the people and the Government of Pakistan for their support and express their gratitude. He said (?Pakistan) President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and his government were very responsive to their needs and sympathetic to their requirements.

Replying to a question, he described Pakistan's policy toward the national liberation struggles in Africa as very positive.

The prime minister of Zimbabwe said his talks with the Pakistan president had been very cordial and they had reached definite conclusions on vital issues that bound the two countries together.

He said the main purpose of his visit to Pakistan was to raise to a new level their mutual friendship and cooperation. He said that Pakistan could be a great help to his country in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of its economy. They could also fruitfully collaborate in the cultural, scientific and technical fields.

STUDENT LEADER WARNS AGAINST TRYING BHUTTO FAMILY

BK271131 Hong Kong AFP in English 1116 GMT 27 May 81

[Text] Bangkok, 27 May (AFP)--An exiled student leader today warned Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq against trying the family of executed Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. In a message to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, Yusuf Nazar, an aide to Mr. Bhutto's daughter Benazir, said General Zia would owe a "blood debt" to the people of Pakistan if he moved against the Bhuttos. "The Bhuttos have not been allowed to contact their lawyers," said Mr. Nazar, in exile here since April. "Zia's court is a kangaroo court."

Yesterday, Pakistan's attorney general said he would charge the daughter, son and widow of the late prime minister in connection with the hijacking of an airplane to Afghanistan.

Mr. Nazar also called on Amnesty International and United Nations Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim to urge Gen. Zia to commute the death sentence of Hameed Baluch, a student leader convicted of anti-state agitation.

The execution of Mr. Baluch would be the sixth in a series of "known martial law murders" in a year, Mr. Nazar said:

TWO ACCOMPLICES OF PIA HIJACKERS ARRESTED

BK240818 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 24 May 81

[Text] Two persons reported to be accomplices of the three armed persons who hijacked the PIA aircraft in March this year have been arrested. According to a report, the two persons arrested by police had arrived in Karachi from Kabul a few days ago. They had contacted the parents of a hijacker to deliver a message.

POLICE ARREST THIRTEEN IN QUETTA INCIDENT

BK260748 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 25 May 81

[Text] In Quetta, 13 people were arrested by the police today who were forcing the shopkeepers to close their shops.

An official handout issued in Quetta tonight said they will be tried by the summary military court tomorrow.

COMMISSION DENIES BBC REPORT ON BALLOT BOXES

BK250750 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 May 81

[Text] The Election Commission has said that 120,000 new large-size ballot boxes are available in the commission's offices in the four provinces. In a statement in Islamabad, the commission said that the BBC, in a broadcast on Saturday, gave the wrong impression about the commission's notice last month in which it invited [word indistinct] tender for the sale of 157,000 old iron ballot boxes that were made 25 years ago and are no longer usable.

According to a report, these small boxes were taken out of the polling stations by hiding them in veils during the 1977 elections and were tampered with. That is why it has been decided to replace these boxes with new, larger boxes. The new boxes have been kept secure and will be used when necessary. Old ballot boxes and other unusable items are being sold according to normal procedures.

SPACE RESEARCH COMMISSION TO BE ESTABLISHED

BK230720 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 May 81

[Text] An ordinance has been promulgated providing for the establishment of a research council for space and the outer atmosphere, of an executive committee and or a space research commission for promoting the peaceful uses of space. The council will be headed by the president and will have six members. The president will also nominate two scientists or engineers to the council.

The council's responsibilities will include setting national policy and guiding principles and reviewing proposals, schemes and plans put forward by the commission. The council will be empowered to control the commission.

The executive committee will, among other things, oversee the commission's activities on behalf of the council. It will be headed by the federal finance minister.

BANI-SADR, COMMANDERS INSPECT CAPTURED HEIGHTS

LD261938 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 May 81

[Text] According to PARS the Sho'ey Biyeh heights, which have been captured by the fighters of the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, were today inspected by Mr Bani-Sadr, commander in chief of the armed forces.

During the visit, which was also attended by Mr Chamran, supervisor of the headquarters for irregular wars [title as heard], and Brigadier General Fallahi, acting chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the operations and activities of the past 24 hours of the fighters of the army, the irregular forces, and the personnel of the revolution guards in creating strongholds in the Allaho Akbar heights and also in recapturing of the Sho'ey Biyeh heights from the aggressive enemy were described by the area commander in the command headquarters.

The commander in chief and those accompanying him then visited the areas liberated from the enemy in the Sho'ey Biyeh heights and also saw the Iraqi aggressor's tanks and vehicles destroyed or left behind. They also visited the trenches and positions of the personnel of the fighting forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, talked with them and thanked them for their efforts.

The PARS report also says: The Sho'ey Biyeh heights, which were captured by the fighters of Islam yesterday afternoon following the recapture of the Allaho Akbar heights, are of primary importance for our forces.

According to the same report, following our fighters' continuous victories on the fronts of right against wrong, these fighters are in excellent spirits and their zeal and level of activity are remarkable considering the high temperature in the area. They are still ready to attack and throw the decadent Iraqi mercenary army out of our homeland.

OPEC CONFERENCE CALLED 'POLITICAL SUCCESS' FOR IRAN

GF270752 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 29 May 81

[Text] Hasan Sadat, Petroleum Ministry under secretary and leader of the Iranian delegation to the OPEC conference in Geneva, has said that the OPEC conference achieved a great political success for Iran because the climate that prevailed in the conference was completely in Iran's favor. This is a great gain for Iran.

He added: By keeping vacant the seat of Brother Tondguyan, the petroleum minister, we have once again raised the issue of his capture and demonstrated to the world that Iraq refused to allow representatives of the Red Cross to visit him in Iraq.

MINISTRY OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON OIL, GAS RESERVES

LD262030 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 May 81

[Summary] The head of the Exploration and Extraction Department of the Petroleum Ministry gave a press conference on the occasion of the 73d anniversary of the discovery of oil in Iran. He gave explanations concerning the present Iranian oil and gas reserves and their international importance.

According to the head of the exploration department, Iran's known reserves are higher than the known U.S. oil reserves, with Iran's gas reserves being even higher than its oil reserves and second only to the Soviet Union in quantity.

Ten percent of the world's known oil reserves and 20 percent of the world's gas reserves are in Iran. He added that known Iranian gas and oil reserves are twice those of the United States and that the present U.S. production rate indicates that it will not be able to produce oil for more than another 10 years. Iran, on the other hand, continuing its 2-million-barrels-per-day production, can continue production for another 80 years based on the known reserves alone. Should exploration and extraction technology improve, then the known reserves can produce five times as much.

Talking about gas extraction, he said that by extracting gas at the highest rate during the past 10 years, our known reserves will last another 250 years, while continuous exploration has shown that Iran has further oil and gas reserves; the period of production, therefore, can be higher.

He said that Iran has drilled a large number of exploration wells in Moghan, Gorgan, parts of central Iran, Fars, Kermanshah and the western parts of the country and also in Lorestan and other locations which have been proved to have huge gas and oil reserves. The reason for not extracting oil in the northern region is that there have been better facilities in the southern region since two-thirds of the world's known oil reserves are in the Persian Gulf area. Exploration activities in the northern region of the country will continue.

OIL MINISTRY DENIES SALES TO ISRAEL, SOUTH AFRICA

LD261210 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 May 81

[Text] The Central News Bureau reports that a Petroleum Ministry spokesman has announced that, despite the extraordinarily dangerous working conditions resulting from the imposed war in the oilfields and other oil installations, the round-the-clock endeavors and self-sacrifice of the faithful and committed workers have maintained continuity of work in this giant industry.

Since the glorious Islamic revolution of Iran, the hands of internal and external plunderers have been cut from the oil sectors, and the rule of the nation over the installations and the huge wealth is being implemented in practice and the gains of the Iranian nation in this respect can be used by other oil-exporting nations as a model. The prejudiced agencies and the press assisted and instructed by Zionist and imperialist sources are spreading rumors about discounts given to the buyers of Iranian crude oil and about Iran's oil sales to the Zionist and racist governments of Israel and South Africa. In order to clear any doubt from the minds of the dear Muslim compatriots of Iran, the following points are brought to your attention once again:

1. At this sensitive time, when part of our dear country has been invaded by the Ba'thist Government of Iraq, the Petroleum Ministry denies these rumors, deems it impermissible to publish information regarding Iranian oil and will refrain from releasing information about current operations and oil contracts to stop the enemy and its allies from taking advantage of this information.

2. The banning of oil exports to Israel, South Africa and other countries, which the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has already succeeded in implementing, is one of the most important signs of the Islamic revolution of Iran and a step toward eliminating the traces of foreign domination over our Islamic country. The news published about discounts given to the buyers of Iranian crude oil and the sale of oil to banned countries are sheer lies.

RAFSANJANI DENIES BEING AUTHOR OF 'DIVISIVE' BOOK

LD261958 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 May 81

[Text] The joint cultural headquarters of the jihad and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of Paveh has sent a letter to Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly. The text of the letter reads as follows:

Honorable speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Brother Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani:

Unfortunately, the enemies of Islam and the opponents of union between the Shi'a and Sunni sects seize every opportunity to destroy Islam and unity between brothers. A book has recently been distributed in the Kordestan region entitled "Hypocrite and Hypocrites." The author of the book is 'A. Hashemi, and it is rumored that you are the author of this book. Would you please express your opinion so as to remove doubt from the minds of the zealous and committed people of Kordestan and to expose the conspirators?

[Signed] The joint cultural headquarters of the jihad and the Islamic Guards Corps of Paveh, 25 May 1981

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly issued the following letter in reply:

In His exalted name. I oppose the raising of divisive issues and consider such action as being against the holy shari'a. I also believe it is a sin to insult the historic figures of the Islamic era. Therefore, I strongly deny this calumny. I hope our Sunni brothers and sisters are strong enough not to be affected by such conspiracies.

[Signed] Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, 25 May 1981

PEOPLE SENT TO SAFEGUARD CENTRAL BANK DOCUMENTS

LD261208 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 May 81

[Text] PARS reports that the Public Relations Office of the office of the Central Province's revolution public prosecutor announced that, according to reports received by the above-mentioned office regarding the copying and transfer of documents belonging to the Central Bank, the office of the Central Province's revolution public prosecutor, observing its religious and revolutionary duty, has sent personnel to the Central Bank in order to safeguard these documents.

MONTAZERI URGES LEADERS TO HALT INTERNAL DISCORD

LD221225 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 May 81

[Excerpts] According to the Central News Bureau, as in previous weeks the glorious Friday prayers were held in Qom's Hakim Nezami High School. Ayatollah Montazeri was the Friday imam. Followers of God participated in the prayers.

While congratulating the combatants of Islam on their recent battlefield victory, Ayatollah Montazeri referred to the fact that the weather is becoming warmer and that soldiers on the battlefronts require cooling devices and other necessities. He again called upon the people to continue providing their unstinting support to the combatants of Islam.

Addressing the statesmen, Ayatollah Montazeri reminded them: You must know that our warriors are not frightened of artillery, tanks and machineguns on the battlefronts. However, they are hurt when there is discord among you statesmen. You should try to pay more attention to the war and stop creating discord and tension in the press. Be vigilant so that our combatants, people and leader won't be more concerned and fear more from discord among us than from their fight against Saddam and the superpowers. Stop this discord and do not open new fronts in the press.

COUNCIL OF GUARDIANS CRITICIZES MAJLIS BILL

LD261254 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 May 81

[Council of Guardians statement on draft law concerning abolition of the phrase "royal decree"; date of issue not given]

[Text] In His exalted name. That part of chapter one of the draft law which makes the appointment of the governor of the Central Bank and his deputy conditional upon the approval of their suitability by the Islamic Consultative Assembly is contrary to article 57 of the Constitution, since it constitutes a form of interference by the legislature in the affairs of the executive.

Concerning chapter seven, which says that the signature and approval of the commander in chief of the armed forces is necessary for all decrees issued within the framework of the operations of the armed forces--since, according to article 110 of the Constitution, the post of the commander in chief of the armed forces is one of the functions and duties of the leader, the implementation of which is specified in part three of that article--and as article 60 of the Constitution specifies that the activities of the executive carried out by the president, the prime minister and the ministers are contrary to the Constitution, except in those cases which the Constitution has specified as the prerogatives of the leader. [sentence as heard]

The remaining chapters and notes of the draft law are not contrary to religious principles or the Constitution.

TEHRAN COMMENTS ON POLITICAL FREEDOM IN COUNTRY

GF232006 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 May 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Millions of the nation's children viewed a 3-hour political debate among leaders of various political parties on television last night. The Voice and Vision Corporation invited the various parties currently in existence in Iran to participate in a free debate in order to give their opinions on various complicated issues. Four parties accepted the invitation: The Islamic Republican Party, the movement of Muslim strugglers, the Tudeh Party and finally, the Marxist Feda'iyan-e Khalq movement. The other parties, including the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization, refused to attend the debate.

The invitation made by the Voice and Vision stemmed from the articles of the Constitution which emphasize that radio and television are free from subordination to any group, including the ruling government. Any party or organization can benefit from this, provided that it agrees to participate in a debate, the result of which is left for the people to decide. Our people have become accustomed to such debates held in the streets and public places.

Despite the ideological contradiction between Islamic and Marxist thought, the Islamic Republic does not suppress the freedom and activities of opposition parties. On the contrary, this contradiction has motivated the Islamic Republic to call for political and ideological dialogues among these parties on the condition that the dialogues take place in front of the masses so that they can discover the truth for themselves.

Yesterday two Islamic parties, which differ in opinion, participated in a dialogue with two Marxist parties, which also differ in opinion. The Tudeh Party espouses scientific socialism as interpreted by the Soviet Union, whereas the Feda'iyan-e Khalq organization espouses scientific socialism as interpreted by Mao. Thus, we realize the wide-ranging contradiction between the ideologies of the groups that participated in the debate. We also realize the freedom that has been able to gather these parties around one table. This is the Islam gift endowed to humanity.

Each party enjoys the freedom to carry out its activities, which range from publishing newspapers to organizing demonstrations. Each party has the right to use the facilities provided by the media to explain its views without hesitation.

PEYKAR, MOJAHEDIN, CITIZENS CLASH IN SHIRAZ

GF262020 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1900 GMT 26 May 81

[Text] As has been predicted, an incident that took place in the vicinity of Abiverdi, Shiraz and that was quelled by law enforcement officers ended at 2400 yesterday. Fifteen persons were arrested.

Mr Nasirian, political and administrative deputy to the Fars governor general, announcing this news and in answer to our reporter, made the following clarification regarding the incident: A scuffle took place when members of the Peykar group attempted to set up an exhibition which the people opposed. Yesterday evening some mojahedin wielding placards of their group joined the Peykar procession and were confronted by a violent reaction from the people.

The Fars governor general's political deputy stressed that in yesterday's brawl only a few were injured and no one was killed. The Peykar group members had caught some Muslims and were hitting them before law enforcement officials arrived on the scene. This group started shooting from the top of a building with an airgun and a revolver. As a result, some people were injured.

The political and administrative deputy ended his statement to our reporter by noting that counterrevolutionaries had spread a rumor yesterday that some revolution guards had been arrested. This news was a fabrication. Our brothers tactfully succeeded in terminating the brawl with the help of law enforcement officials.

TRANSPORT AGREEMENT DOCUMENTS EXCHANGED WITH USSR

LD241132 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 May 81
[Text] The Central News Bureau reports that documents dealing with a transport agreement between Iran and the USSR were signed and exchanged yesterday at the conclusion of the 10th meeting of the permanent subcommittee of Iran and the USSR by the two countries' representatives. The documents were signed by Qa'em-Maqami, the under secretary of the Ministry of Roads and Transport of Iran, and Yemetsn, deputy minister of the Soviet Ministry of Railways.

On the basis of the report the two countries, having signed the documents, agreed to increase the volume of transport of goods through each country's border by up to 7 million tons in the current year [beginning 21 March]. The same report adds that talks were also held with the permanent subcommittee in connection with improving the quality of rail transport of goods as well as transport of goods by ship and truck. Moreover, the meeting decided that in order to expand and develop Iranian shipping in the Caspian Sea--routes between Iranian and Soviet ports--the Islamic Republic's shipping should contact Sudoimport directly.

The next session of the subcommittee is planning to meet next year in Moscow.

NEWS EXCHANGE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH TURKEY

GF221334 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 May 81

[Text] PARS Agency Director General Kamal (Gharazi) returned to Tehran today after his visit to Turkey to sign an agreement on news exchange between PARS and ANATOLIA News Agencies. During the visit, Kamal Gharazi signed an agreement in this connection with Director General of ANATOLIA Cevdet Tanyeli.

IRAQI INSURGENTS KILL 340 IRAQI SOLDIERS

LD240806 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 24 May 81

[Text] Citing an informed source in Iraq, PARS reports that Muslim Iraqi fighters attacked an Iraqi mercenary brigade which was on its way to the front. The Muslim fighters killed 340 Iraqi soldiers, including 4 officers, and destroyed 18 [word indistinct].

IRAQI MUJAHIDIN ATTACK BASRA PRISON, KILL GUARDS

GF241259 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 May 81

[Text] According to recent reports, the Iraqi Muslim mujahidin attacked Basra prison, killed many of its guards and released 60 political prisoners and a number of the mujahidin family members. After this heroic operation Saddam at-Tikriti inspected the prison at night and ordered the prosecution of some of its officials and fired some others.

'STRUGGLERS' PROTEST ASSASSINATION OF IRAQI IN UAE

GF251243 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMt 25 May 81

[Text] Strugglers of the Ad-Da'wah Islamic Party at 1000 today staged a (?peaceful) sit-in outside the UAE Embassy in Tehran. They protested the assassination of Suhayl Muhammad as-Salman, an Iraqi struggler and party member.

The (?demonstrators) issued a statement condemning the assassination and emphasizing the need to protect the lives and property of opponents of the Iraqi agent regime in the UAE. They also demanded a fair trial for the criminal who assassinated the martyred Suhayl Muhammad as-Salman. The statement was handed over to the UAE ambassador in Tehran.

Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Atefi, an official of Ad-Da'wah Islamic Party, told PARS that similar demonstrations were staged on the same occasion in Syria, Lebanon and other countries.

Asked about the reaction of the UAE ambassador on receiving the statement, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Atefi said: The ambassador announced he would inform his country of the demonstrators' demands. He also promised to do his best to prevent the recurrence of such acts.

JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 514 ON BATTLE SUCCESSES

LD261804 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 May 81

[Communique 514 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. You are hereby informed of the activities of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the past 24 hours, as follows:

The Sho'eybiyeh heights were regained from the enemy yesterday by the self-sacrificing combatants of the 92d Armored Division, their comrades-in-arms from the Chamran irregular fighters attached to the army and the brothers from the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, with support from the ground forces aviation command and the air force. The combatant forces of Islam are continuing their advance to regain other areas occupied by the Iraqi aggressors.

The combatants of Islam on the Abadan and Khuninshahr fronts opened fire on enemy positions and set ablaze and destroyed one enemy tank, one 106-mm gun, one RPG-7, three mortars, one ammunition dump, one ammunition-carrying vehicle, six machinegun emplacements and three trenches. In Dezful, thanks to gunfire from the mighty army heroes, four enemy tanks, one ammunition-carrying vehicle, one mortar emplacement, one ammunition dump and two trenches were destroyed and large numbers of enemy servicemen were either killed or wounded. Heavy enemy ambulance traffice confirmed the heavy casualties suffered by the Iraqi aggressors. On another front in this region our self-sacrificing units, while thwarting enemy actions, damaged a tank and a loader belonging to the aggressors, set ablaze an Iraqi Army ammunition tent and an ammunition-carrying vehicle, and killed or wounded a number of Iraqi servicemen.

In Eyn Khosh, the defenders of Iran's Islamic revolution set ablaze an enemy ammunition dump and damaged a vehicle belonging to the aggressors.

On other fronts in the southern and western regions of the country, exchanges of fire continued between our own forces and the aggressive Iraqi Army. The defenders of Iran's Islamic revolution opened fire on Iraqi forces in Panjwin and destroyed two enemy khamsah-khamsah cannons [presumably Chinese version of Soviet 57-mm "type 55" antitank gun], one mortar and seven vehicles and killed or wounded a number of Iraqi servicemen. Our vigilant antiaircraft units yesterday forced several Iraqi aircraft to flee from the airspace of several towns in the southern and western parts of our country.

On 23-24 May, 23 self-sacrificing troops of the Ground Forces and 1 fighter from the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran were martyred on the battlefronts and hastened to meet God. May their souls be happy.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

GUARDS CORPS ANNOUNCES RECENT BATTLE SUCCESSES

LD241738 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 May 81

[Summary] The Public Relations Office of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps announced the guards' operations during the past 24 hours as follows:

1. In Gilan-e Gharb: The guards destroyed a number of Iraqi trenches with their artillery fire, killing more than 10 Iraqis and wounding a number of others.

2. The guards and peshmerga mopped up the village of (Gilaneh) in the district of Sanandaj. During these mopping-up operations, a number of armed assailants were killed and a number of them were wounded. Also, a number of light and heavy weapons were seized by the guards.

3. In a clash between the guards and counterrevolutionaries in the Namak area in Javanrud, a number of the assailants were killed or wounded. A number of their weapons were also seized by the guards. In these operations one of the guards was martyred.

4. Following the mopping-up operations in Hasanabad and (Andarzan) villages in Sanandaj, the guards and peshmerga clashed with the counterrevolutionaries. Some of the assailants were killed or wounded and some of them were captured.

5. On 22 May, 14 Iraqi soldiers surrendered to the forces of Islam in Marivan and asked for asylum.

694 IRAQIS CAPTURED IN ALLAHO AKBAR FIGHTING

LD250834 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 25 May 81

[Text] PARS reports from Ahvaz that the exchange of artillery fire continued yesterday between the army of Islam and the invading Iraqi forces on the Allaho Akbar front and the fronts to the west of Susangerd. As a result of the attacks by our combatants, damages and losses were inflicted on Saddam's invaders, the exact amount of which is not yet known. The same report indicates that, according to the latest available statistics, the number of Saddam's mercenaries captured on the Shush and Allaho Akbar fronts and on the fronts to the west of Susangerd in the past 3 days is 694, of which 29 are officers, 25 are warrant officers, 48 are NCO's and the rest are soldiers.

BYELECTION CANDIDATES INSTRUCTED TO REGISTER

LD251316 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 May 81

[25 May announcement by Interior Minister Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani on Majlis byelections--read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Since in accordance with the first section of article six of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran the order has been issued to hold byelections for Tabriz, (?Miyandeh), (?Benab), (Moqan), (?Varzaqan), Bostanabad, Hasharud, Jerman, Sirjan, Bandar-e Lengeh, (Saravank Khash), Chah Bahar, (Delsan), Shirvan, (?Kasma), Fariman, Darreh Gaz, (Bo'in-Zahra), Rud Sar, Bandar-e Anzali and Boyer Ahmad, all compatriots are hereby informed that in connection with implementation of the latter part of article 14 of the amendment to the election bill of the first session of the Majlis, if they wish to participate in the elections or are prepared to run for the assembly as a representative from these districts, they must contact their respective governor's or district governor's office between Thursday 28 May and Wednesday 3 June--a total of 7 days--in order to register and announce their candidacy in accordance with the election law.

RAFSANJANI MEETS WITH PAVEH IMAM, LOCAL OFFICIALS

LD252009 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 May 81

[Excerpt] According to the Central News Bureau, Paveh Friday Imam Molla Qader Qaderi, a number of clergy, the district governor and mayor, representatives of revolutionary organizations and Paveh bazaar merchants met with the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

At the meeting, the Paveh Friday imam explained the problems and the needs of the Sunni brothers in the area and talked about the dissident plots to create disagreements among the Sunni and Shi'a brothers.

The Majlis speaker said in reply: Your needs and problems are not unexpected or (?unacceptable). We intend to gradually eliminate the problems. The authorities in the country stress that there should be no differences between brothers in different parts of the (?country).

Our actions in the future will be aimed at uprooting the causes of dissent and creating reasons for unity. God willing, the decrees of the imam of the nation and the implementation of the Constitution concerning the councils and participation of Muslims who are faithful to the Islamic revolution (?will result in) the elimination of many shortcomings.

INTERIOR MINISTER APPOINTS PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS

LD241130 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 May 81

[Summary] The Central News Bureau reports that Interior Minister Mr Mahdavi-Kani has appointed engineer Hoseyn Taheri as governor general of East Azarbayjan and Ayatollah Sana'i Jahromi as acting governor general of Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari.

BALUCHI GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR HOSEYN-BOR KILLING

NC211433 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 1805 GMT 20 May 81

[Text] Our correspondent reports that following continuous disturbances in the Baluchestan region, fresh clashes broke out between Baluchi combatants and Ayatollah Khomeyni's revolution guards in [name indistinct] town, in which a large number of revolution guards were killed or wounded. In the clashes one gendarmerie officer was also killed. The clashes continue.

An armed political group calling itself the Organization of Baluchi Unity issued a statement yesterday claiming responsibility for the assassination of Baluchi Seyyed Hoseyn-Bor, who collaborated with the Tehran regime. He was killed in Saravan last week.

VOICE OF IRAN ON TUDEH PARTY ACTIVITIES

GF261518 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 0330 GMT 26 May 81

[Text] According to the Voice of Iran correspondent in Zahedan, Tudeh Party members and leftist elements have been seen in Baluchestan recently. Well-informed sources in Sistan va Baluchestan comment that the leftist groups themselves realize that they have no chance of success in this region. The Tudeh elements are in this sensitive border province to gather information for the foreign government for which they are working. In a few border areas of Baluchestan, direct contacts between Tudeh Party members and Soviet agents, who are among the so-called Afghan refugees, have been noticed.

The Voice of Iran correspondent says at the end of his report: According to information obtained, two of the country's provinces have attracted the attention of Tudeh Party members during the past few weeks. Most Tehran Tudeh members have been seen in these two regions. One is Sistan va Baluchestan Province and the other is the southern province of Lorestan and Khorramabad.

NVOI RAPS BANI-SADR FOR UNDERMINING CONSTITUTION

TA261644 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 25 May 81

[Unattributed commentary: "Government Figures Should Desist From Sowing Discord"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: For a long time we have said that fanning controversies and sowing discord are the principal methods of the counterrevolution and world-devouring U.S. imperialism.

The United States, its elements and its accomplices in our liberated country, by resorting to this method, parallel with conducting various military, economic and political maneuvers, pursue a unique and special goal, which is to weaken and if possible overthrow the Islamic Republican system. This fact has become clear to all during the 2 years following the revolution, and there is undeniable proof of its confirmation. Therefore, this is the reason why the periodic plots of world-devouring America are for the revolutionary and committed forces not unexpected.

The topic concerns the actions and conduct of those individuals who consider themselves to be Muslims and supporters of the Islamic revolution, but at every step, using as a pretext this or that problem, this or that rumor, prepare propaganda fodder for imperialist mouthpieces and practically act in the very line favored by America.

During the recent Friday sermon, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i, the Tehran Friday imam, while justly pointing to events in the country, said that alongside the military victories of recent weeks, the political and propaganda efforts of the enemy have increased as well. All radios that are part of the Zionist and imperialist network somehow strive to portray the problems of Iran in an inverted way by stressing domestic problems, by picking up certain sentences from the tongues of some authorities and by portraying the situation of the people as being worse than it really is. All of this is done to make world public opinion cool toward the Islamic revolution and lose hope in it.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i then said: The radios of London, Israel, Germany and the VOA broadcast utter distortions and insults against the Islamic Republic.

Indeed, it is a fact that in addition to the road-roller liberals and the agents of dependent capitalists and big landowners, some government figures who also claim to follow the imam, by using the same method as the liberals and in order to grasp power, raise problems in such a groundless and irresponsible manner that they are instantly and fully exploited as an instrument by the Zionist and imperialist mass media against the imam's line and our Islamic Republic.

In this connection, if we want to speak openly and frankly and not fear to declare the facts for the sake of the country's interests, we should say that unfortunately, the president is at the forefront of this group of government figures. Sometimes they use the issue of torture in prisons, another time the banning of this or that newspaper opposed to the imam's line, such as Brzezinski's MIZAN, and another time elections in this or that city as a means to attack a specific faction and the revolutionary authority. Of course, they use the colorful demagogy of allegedly defending freedom.

A few days ago, Ayatollah Montazeri addressing this group of officials, said: Engage less in creating discord and tension in the press and newspapers. The people and the imam are very worried about the discord among you. Put discord sowing aside, and do not create tension in the newspapers.

A glance at the random remarks by the mouthpieces of the liberals or by Mr Bani-Sadr, and at the distorted and misleading writings full of slander and accusation, usually quoting U.S. or other Western newspapers or citing reports fabricated by imperialist news agencies and published in MIZAN or ENQELAB-E ESLAMI and the like, shows the extent to which the committed religious figures and true forces of the revolution are justified in their protests against these discord sowers.

World-devouring America and its allies abroad, the counterrevolution, the road-roller liberals and the U.S. Maoists who are on the inside, want to place the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran under a cloud. The Iranian revolutionary people do not have any complaint or expect anything from these domestic and foreign enemies.

But what do some of our country's responsible officials who consider themselves to be Islamic say? During one of the recent sessions of the Majlis, Mr Musavi rightly said that at present the aim of the U.S. plot is to put the Constitution of the Islamic Republic under a cloud. Unfortunately, in this connection certain people who are Muslims have been used as tools. While referring to the statement by one of the responsible officials who had said that in Iran torture rules instead of law, Musavi asked: Is such a manner of action from within not tantamount to placing the Constitution of our system under a cloud? Is it not rendering assistance to that general plan?

The United States wants to create a climate of discontent and pessimism in the country. The United States equips counterrevolutionary groups, such as Bakhtiar's Pars gang, in order to create an atmosphere of instability inside the country through sabotage, explosions, terror and subversion, and to pave the way for implementing America's plots. Hojjat ol-Eslam Reyshahri, the revolution's armed forces prosecutor, said in an interview that the aim of this group is to revive the hatred monarchical regime.

Under conditions when plots are being hatched from every side against the gains of our nation's revolution, the responsibility of official individuals and government figures in neutralizing these plots is greater than others. Indeed, it is not clear why our country's judicial organizations do not act decisively in the face of the activities of a certain group or individuals who are overtly opposed to the imam's line and whose stance results in weakening the Islamic Republic of Iran. Defending the bounds of freedom, the gains of the revolution and the popular and anti-imperialist line of the imam is the duty of every revolutionary Iranian and every person committed to the nation, country and our nation's glorious revolution. However, the plots of the liberals, of certain elements who have fallen into the trap of the liberals and of U.S. Maoists who usually operate under a demagogic Islamic mask or in defense of freedom should be responded to decisively and within a revolutionary and judicial context.

NVOI: BANI-SADR DEPRIVING IRAN OF SOVIET SUPPORT

TA270638 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 26 May 81

[Unattributed commentary: "Let Us Not Concoct Imaginary Enemies for the Iranian Revolution"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: Under conditions when the people of our liberated homeland have risen, with one body and soul, to confront the political, economic and military pressures of U.S. imperialism, and are foiling the conspiratorial plans of this world-devouring imperialism one after the other; at a time when socialist countries, led by the Soviet Union, are sincerely supporting the Iranian revolution and its gains and are prepared to place all their potential at the disposal of our country in order to assist the Islamic Republic of Iran, we see that certain mysterious hands, and unfortunately some government figures, are constantly striving to divert public opinion and somehow, wittingly or unwittingly, protect U.S. imperialism from blows.

The fact that the dependent and compromising liberals and the American Maoists in our homeland are working toward this end is understandable. This emanates from their counterrevolutionary nature and subservience to U.S. imperialism and China's hegemonists. However, the fact that certain government figures, such as Mr Bani-Sadr, also participate actively toward this end--against the popular and anti-imperialist line of the imam--pours grist into the mill of the enemies of the Iranian revolution and those who desire the previous era. This cannot be justified at all.

No one doubts that the Iranian nation's glorious revolution has certain friends and foes whom the people recognize well through experience.

The people know that U.S. imperialism and its Western allies, such as Britain, France, West Germany, Japan and others, have adopted a hostile stance toward our revolution. The people also know and have observed and continue to observe through experience that the Soviet Union and socialist countries have acted and continue to act as the natural allies of the Iranian revolution. They know the presence of a powerful socialist government like the Soviet Union in the neighborhood of our country prevents the implementation of U.S. imperialism's Satanic plans in crushing the Iranian revolution and in committing overt aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is this very fact, too, that has aroused the alarm of Iran's domestic and foreign foes, and they feverishly attempt by any means to deprive revolutionary Iran from such decisive and unsparing support by the socialist countries. In order to achieve this satanic aim they play a different tune every day and, especially, use the issue of the superpowers as a pretext. Under the excuse of the so-called "Neither Eastern nor Western" slogan they try artificially to bring up the name of the Soviet Union in order to deliver U.S. imperialism from blows.

It is a cause of deep regret that some government figures, particularly President Bani-Sadr, wittingly or unwittingly, try in this connection to suggest to the people that allegedly for liberated Iran, Russia--meaning the Soviet Union--is as dangerous as U.S. imperialism. At best, such a claim by the president is the height of injustice. It would have been better for Mr Bani-Sadr to at least take the trouble of studying even briefly the stance of the United States and the Soviet Union toward the Iranian revolution. Then he would not have repeated this claim of the liberals. The people expect officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran to be realistic and to tell them the truth, not deprive revolutionary Iran of the sincere support of its true friends on the basis of the mental oozings of counterrevolutionary writers, rumors fabricated by the CIA and the British intelligence service and by forging historical facts.

Our country's government figures should take steps toward consolidating the positions of the Iranian revolution. It is a futile and childish thought if, in order to prove one's legitimacy or sincerity toward the Iranian revolution and people, one declares war on friend and foe and concocts an imaginary enemy for the Islamic Republic of Iran. Like any other liberated country, revolutionary Iran is in need of sincere and loyal friends and allies. Those who, under any pretext, strive to deprive the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran of such friends and allies and to isolate it, regardless of their rank, are only acting for the benefit of the foes of the revolution and to the detriment of the Iranian revolution.

Hurling insults at the Soviet Union, which is our next-door neighbor, in the manner of the compromising liberals and the sympathizers of U.S. imperialism has no longer any demand in our society. The people know who their friends and enemies are.

NEPAL

KING NOMINATES NATIONAL PANCHAYAT MEMBERS

BK261520 Hong Kong AFP in English 1120 GMT 26 May 81

[Excerpts] Katmandu, 26 May (AFP)--King Birendra today nominated 23 members of the National Panchayat but was silent over the renomination of Foreign Minister K.B. Shahi and Professor R.P. Rajbahak, the minister of state for commerce and industry. [Katmandu External Service in English at 1450 GMT on 26 May reports that "his majesty the king has accepted the resignations of Foreign, Works and Transport Minister K.B. Shahi and Minister of State for Industry, Commerce and Tourism Ram Prashad Rajbahak, submitted to Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa for having ceased to be members of the Rastriya Panchayat. His majesty the king has thanked Shahi and Rajbahak for honestly discharging their duties while in office. His majesty has also commanded Prime Minister Surya Bawadur Thapa to take charge of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Works and Transport, and Minister of State for Finance and General Administration Yadav Prashad Pant of the Ministries of Industries, Commerce and Tourism. This was stated by the principal press secretariat of his majesty the king."]

From among the 23 nominees the prominent politically known persons were Rudra Prasad Giri, former minister for public works and transport who was once an active member of B.P. Koirala's outlawed Nepali Congress, and Mrs Kamal Shah, the daughter of the Rana prime minister, Judha Shumsher. She had already served the Panchayat government in the mid-1970's as minister of state for health and education.

Other nominations were represented from the 14 zones of the kingdom but none of them were candidates contesting against Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa in the premiership election, which is expected to take place in mid-June.

Among those 112 elected members none seemed to have Prime Minister Thapa's stature although Pashu Pati Rana, the Oxford-educated former minister of state for education and the grandson of the last Rana prime minister, Mohan Shumsher, may try to run for the prime-ministership.

Another candidate is Dr K.I. Singh, the former prime minister, who had revolted in 1953 but had failed to seize power, which apparently led him to fly to China to take political asylum.

SRI LANKA

SECURITY TIGHTENED FOLLOWING POLITICAL MURDER

BK261430 Hong Kong AFP in English 1344 GMT 26 May 81

[Text] Colombo, 26 May (AFP)--Police today tightened security measures in Jaffna District in the north following the murder of a ruling party candidate for the district development council elections next month.

Mr A. Thiagarajah, who headed the list of candidates of the United National Party (UNP) for the election to the Jaffna district council on June 4, was shot and wounded by an unidentified gunman last Sunday. He died in hospital last night.

One district development council is to be established in each of the 24 districts in the country in a bid to accelerate development activities in rural areas.

The UNP has put forward candidates for all 24 councils and was returned uncontested to seven councils when nominations were received last month.

The elections are also being contested in the other districts by the minority Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) and some independent groups. The Sri Lanka Freedom Party of former Prime Minister Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike is not contesting, saying that the establishment of district councils is an attempt to perpetuate the "authoritarian" rule of the UNP. Two other major parties, the Trotskyite Lanka Sama Samaja Party and the Communist Party (Moscow wing), both of which failed to gain even a single seat in Parliament at the last general elections in 1977, have also decided not to enter the fray for the district councils. A keen contest is expected between the UNP and the TULF in the northern and eastern provinces where the minority Tamils predominate. The TULF wants a separate state in these two provinces for the eleven percent Tamil minority while the UNP has said it will not allow the country to be divided.

Police suspect that a Tamil youth group, which has been conducting a terrorist campaign in the north in support of a separate state, may be responsible for the killing of Mr. Thiagarajah.

AALCC MEETING ASSAILS DELAY OF LOS CONFERENCE

BK261422 Hong Kong AFP in English 1217 GMT 26 May 81

[Excerpts] Colombo, 26 May (AFP)--A meeting of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee has begun discussing here the "very serious situation" that has arisen following the United States' attitude to the draft Law of the Sea convention, a conference spokesman said.

This decision of the United States [to review the provisions of the draft law] has "retarded the progress of the Law of the Sea conference and the expected conclusion of a convention within the year 1981 has suffered a complete setback," Dr. B. Sen, general secretary of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee, AALCC, has said in a special report submitted to the Colombo meeting.

Dr. Sen has said that "the international community cannot be held in ransom to wait indefinitely for the results of the review by the U.S. administration or the participation by other industrialised nations in an effective and meaningful fashion".

He has suggested that a "reasonable time limit" would have to be set by the next session of the Law of the Sea Conference meeting in Geneva in August." If at the expiry of such a time limit, the United States and other industrialised countries are not in a position to commit themselves or if they put forward proposals which constitute basic changes, the developing and socialist countries may then be forced to consider the question of adoption of a convention through means other than consensus", Dr. Sen has said in his report.

Dr. Sen told a press conference that during the next two or three days the AALCC meeting would try to establish a common approach to be adopted at the August session of the Law of the Sea Conference on the "serious situation" created by the decision of the United States to review the draft convention.

Any possible delay in the conclusion of a convention beyond the current year or the early part of 1982 may have serious consequences in view of the unilateral legislations which have been enacted or are sought to be enacted by several industrialised countries for the exploitation of the sea bed pending the adoption of the convention, Dr. Sen said.

He said the United States and West Germany had already enacted legislation while Britain, Belgium and France were planning similar laws to allow their respective nationals to exploit the sea bed in specified areas.

NEWS EXCHANGE CONFERENCE OPENS IN COLOMBO

BK251206 Hong Kong AFP in English 1047 GMT 25 May 81

[Excerpt] Colombo, 25 May (AFP)--Sri Lanka's Minister of Information and Broadcasting today said that Asian countries, while criticising Western news agencies for an information imbalance, did nothing to disseminate information about themselves.

Anandatissa de Alwis, minister of state (information and broadcasting) inaugurating a four-day conference on news exchanges among Asian countries, said "nobody does more injustice to us than we do ourselves".

The conference is being attended by secretaries of ministries of information and broadcasting and heads of national news agencies of eleven Asian countries--Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malyasia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

They are discussing ways of developing a mechanism for exchanging news and information among Asian countries.

The conference is jointly sponsored by Sri Lanka's Ministry of State, the country's national news agency LANKAPUWATH and the Singapore-based Asian Mass Communication Research and Information Centre (AMIC). In addition, financial assistance is being provided by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

[Colombo International Service in English at 1045 GMT on 26 May carries a report on De Alwis' speech, noting he said that a news exchange program for the Asian region "would result in a continuing bond of friendship and togetherness. In a region with common problems, it will enable the people to share each other's joys and sorrows." The report then continues: "De Alwis noted with regret that little effort had been made in the past to correct the problems of news imbalance in the region, although everybody was blaming the Western-based international news agencies for injustices against them. Dwelling further on this aspect, the minister said he agreed with Indian Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi, who in a recent interview had remarked that in the news media of all developing countries there was very little news about themselves. They did not seem to care in their own newsrooms to know about each other in Asia, in the Far East or Africa. On the contrary, they were thirsting to know what was happening outside these regions. Besides, there was an imbalance in news and information in the Asian region itself. The minister warned that in exchanging news there should be no manipulation of its content."]

MINISTER ON GROUP OF 77 MEETING IN VENEZUELA

BK231115 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 23 May 81

[Text] All the 120 developing countries which attended this week's Group of 77 meeting in Venezuela have agreed to purchase tea directly from Sri Lanka without depending on the London market. Trade and Shipping Minister Lalith Athulathmudali, who returned yesterday after attending the group meeting, also said that in addition the host country Venezuela had agreed to purchase other local products, too, without obtaining them through a third country.

Athulathmudali said that the Group of 77 at this meeting decided on several measures aimed at boosting economic cooperation among the developing countries. They had approved a formal document on economic cooperation and also decided to set up an intergovernmental committee in New York to coordinate the group's activity. In addition, the oil exporting countries attending the meeting had promised to increase their financial aid to poorer Third World nations. Athulathmudali noted that considerable progress had been achieved by the Group of 77 in the recent past.